

May 15, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Shaheen, Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you consider Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) appropriations for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), we urge you to provide, at a minimum, the fully authorized amounts for each of the DOJ school safety grant programs under the STOP School Violence Act (Division S, Title V of Public Law 115–141).

While Congress provided a total of \$100 million authorized for these programs in for FY19, the School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) received a \$25 million appropriation, short of the fully authorized amount. Meanwhile the statute (34 U.S.C. § 10555) is clear that within the \$100 million authorized for each fiscal year from FY19-28, \$33 million of this amount is to be made available for the COPS program, and \$67 million is to be made available for the program administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

Fully funding SVPP is critical to providing the most flexibility to school districts to meet their safety and security needs, which can vary widely. A district may have greater unmet needs for the type of assistance provided under the BJA program (violence prevention and mental health training, threat assessment and anonymous reporting programs) or SVPP (facility access control measures, emergency communications, law enforcement notification systems, and other protective measures), depending on the district.

Both grant initiatives support important elements of a balanced and holistic approach to school safety and security, and each program covers a different set of needs. With \$25 million available in FY18, the SVPP program was only able to make grant awards supporting less than half of more than 200 eligible applications, indicating the need for additional resources to address legitimate requirements. Providing additional funding for both programs in FY20 would support districts throughout the country as they seek to assess policies, procedures and infrastructure in place and address local needs identified.

Representing stakeholders across the education and solutions provider communities, **we strongly urge you to 1) provide a total of \$125 million for STOP School Violence Act programs, a \$25 million increase over FY19, and 2) ensure each program, including SVPP, is provided with at least the full amount authorized and in the ratio stipulated in the statute, as you consider FY20 appropriations for Department of Justice.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

21st Century School Fund (21CSF)  
Door Safety and Security Foundation (DSSF)  
DHI Door Security + Safety Professionals (DHI)  
National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)  
National Council on School Facilities (NCSF)  
National Systems Contractors Association (NSCA)

National School Boards Association (NSBA)  
Safe and Sound Schools – A Sandy Hook Initiative  
Secure Schools Alliance  
Security Industry Association (SIA)  
Secure Our Schools (SOS) Parkland